DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 414 488 CE 075 427

TITLE	Exploring Career Paths. A Guide for Students and Their Families.
INSTITUTION	Missouri Univ., Columbia. Instructional Materials Lab.
SPONS AGENCY	Missouri State Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education, Jefferson City. Div. of Vocational and Adult Education.
PUB DATE	1997-00-00
NOTE	37p.; Designed to be used with a related facilitator's guide; see CE 075 428.
AVAILABLE FROM	Instructional Materials Laboratory, University of Missouri, 8 London Hall, 2316 Industrial Drive, Columbia, MO 65202; 800-669-2465; http://www.iml.coe.missouri.edu (order no. 30-2012-S, $1).
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom - Learner (051)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Agricultural Occupations; Building Trades; Business Administration; *Career Education; Career Exploration; *Career Guidance; Clerical Occupations; Communications; Competence; Competency Based Education; *Education Work Relationship; Energy Occupations; Engineering; Finance Occupations; Health Occupations; Human Services; Industry; Managerial Occupations; *Occupational Aspiration; Professional Occupations; Sales Occupations; School Guidance; Secondary Education; Technical Occupations; *Values Clarification
IDENTIFIERS	*Career Paths

ABSTRACT

This five-section guide is designed to help students and their parents explore career paths. The first part of the guide is an introduction to the concept of career paths and an explanation of the steps students follow in exploring career paths. The second section, which makes up most of the booklet, covers five steps for exploring career paths: (1) get to know yourself; (2) begin to look at careers; (3) explore, both in school and out; (4) put it all together; and (5) get started--explore some more. Information is provided about occupations in six career paths: arts and communications; business, management, and technology; health services; human services; industrial and engineering technology; and natural resources and agriculture. Worksheets and checklists are provided for students to record their reactions to experiences in various career paths and to plan their high school classes to meet the educational needs of their proposed careers. The activities in the guide are derived from the Missouri Comprehensive Model Guidance Program competencies and the National Career Development Guidelines Competencies and indicators from the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee. (KC)

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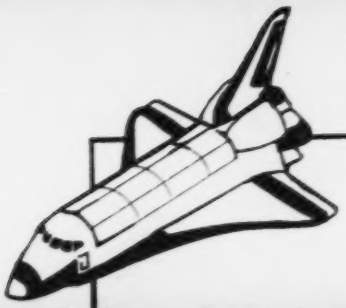

Exploring Career Paths

A Guide for Students and Their Families

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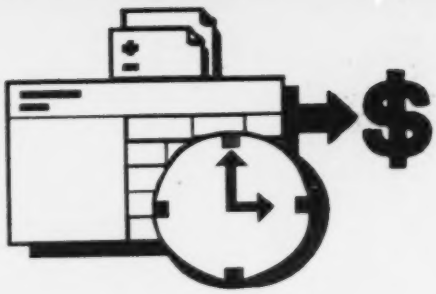
What Are Career Paths?



How Can Career Paths Help Me?

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TO: My Family Members
FROM: Me, Your Student
SUBJECT: My Future Career Path

Dear Family:

This is my "Exploring Career Paths" booklet. Exploring career paths will help me find out about the world of work and begin to make smart choices for further career exploration. This booklet is going to help me learn more about myself and about career paths. I'm going to make some plans to investigate the path that really interests me. The good news is, I don't have to pick a career for the rest of my life - I just get to explore all of my choices.

Here's how you can be involved:

1. Help me identify my interests, abilities, and talents by telling me what you think I really do well.
2. Share information about careers and your work experiences. What kinds of jobs have you had? What did you like best about them?
3. Help me talk to people you know about careers that interest me. You'll be surprised how many different types of jobs your friends have if you stop and think about it!
4. Talk to me about my career paths progress! Ask me what I like or don't like about each career path or occupation I explore. You can help me make some initial career paths choices and plans.

Thanks very much for your help!

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What Are Career Paths, Anyway?

Career paths are clusters of occupations that require different levels of education and training. People working in a career path share interests, abilities, and talents. Career paths help you identify a career focus without being locked into a specific occupation.

Are Career Paths For Me?

YES! Career Paths Are For EVERYONE!
By exploring career paths, you can expand your choices for the future. All paths are important -- we need *all* of them to keep our community going.

So, What If I Explore Career Paths?

Career paths help you prepare for your future. You don't have to choose a specific occupation for the rest of your life — just find out about career paths and opportunities in them.

By exploring different career paths, you'll see how many of the things you study in school, like math, science, language arts, and social studies, are important in lots of careers. If you see a connection between schoolwork and the "real" world, chances are school will mean more to you.

The BIG Question - What If I Change My Mind?

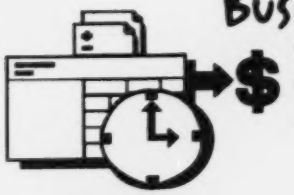
When it comes to careers, it's not unusual for us to change our minds! Would you believe today's adults may change their occupations seven or eight times? In fact, some of the jobs you'll find yourself doing in the future may not even exist yet!

This booklet gives you a chance to explore career paths, then pick one that you want to find out more about. Later, if you decide it's not the path for you - that's fine! You'll have learned things you can take with you to any other career path, and you'll be ready to explore a different career path.

What Are The Six Career Paths?*

Arts & Communications

Occupations in this path are related to humanities and performing, visual, literary, and media arts. These include architecture; graphic, interior, and fashion design; writing; film; fine arts; journalism; languages; media; advertising; and public relations.



Business, Management, & Technology

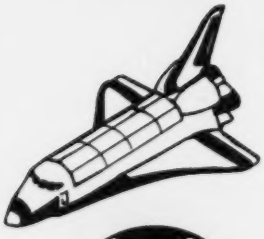
Occupations in this path are related to the business environment. These include entrepreneurship, sales, marketing, computer/information systems, finance, accounting, personnel, economics, and management.

Health Services

Occupations in this path are related to the promotion of health and treatment of disease. These include research, prevention, treatment, and related health technologies.

Human Services

Occupations in this path are related to economic, political, and social systems. These include education, government, law and law enforcement, leisure and recreation, military, religion, child care, social services, and personal services.



Industrial & Engineering Technology

Occupations in this path are related to technologies necessary to design, develop, install, and maintain physical systems. These include engineering, manufacturing, construction, service, and related technologies.

Natural Resources/Agriculture

Occupations in this path are related to agriculture, the environment, and natural resources. These include agricultural sciences, earth sciences, environmental sciences, fisheries, forestry, horticulture, and wildlife.

* Adopted from a model developed by the state of Oregon. Icons modified from Columbia Career Center, Columbia, Missouri.

What Do I Need To Do?

Exploring career paths is fun - so let's get started! Here's what's ahead:

Step 1. **Get To Know Yourself!**

Identify your interests, abilities, and talents by answering the questions on page 6.

Step 2. **Begin To Look At Careers!**

Consider careers in each path in relation to your strengths. Find out more about those that interest you the most.

Step 3. **Explore, Both In School And Out!**

Have you ever kept a journal or a diary? Try it with career paths exploration! This booklet will help you organize your experiences and thoughts about them.

Step 4. **Put It All Together!**

Based on your exploration, pick a path or paths that you want to learn more about. ***Don't worry - it's not a permanent choice, it's just a starting point!***

Step 5. **GET STARTED - Explore Some More!**

- Which classes do you want to take next year?
- What do you like to do in your leisure time?
- Are you a volunteer?
- Are you involved in extra-curricular activities?

All of these experiences can help you explore your career path!

Step 1. Get to Know Yourself! - Career Survey*

Activities That Sound Interesting To Me
1. preparing medicines in a pharmacy
2. helping sick people
3. working with animals
4. helping with sports injuries
5. studying anatomy and disease
6. performing surgery

Personal Qualities That Describe Me
1. compassionate and caring
2. good listener
3. good at following directions carefully
4. conscientious and careful
5. patient

In My Free Time I Would Enjoy
1. volunteering in a hospital
2. taking care of pets
3. exercising and taking care of myself

School Subjects/Activities That I Enjoy or Do Well In
1. math
2. science
3. biology
4. chemistry

Total # circled: ____ **1.**

Activities That Sound Interesting To Me
1. predicting weather
2. predicting or measuring earthquakes
3. growing flowers/trees, gardening
4. studying rocks and minerals
5. raising fish or other animals
6. working in a chemistry lab

Personal Qualities That Descibe Me
1. like helping with problems
2. nature lover
3. physically active
4. problem solver
5. observant

In My Free Time I Would Enjoy
1. hiking
2. participating in FFA or 4H
3. experimenting with a chemistry set

School Subjects/ Activities That I Enjoy or Do Well In
1. math
2. geography
3. biology
4. geometry

Total # circled: ____ **2.**

Activities That Sound Interesting To Me
1. reading or writing stories or articles
2. designing and building scenery for plays
3. gardening
4. taking photographs
5. acting in a play or movie
6. listening to/playing music

Personal Qualities That Describe Me
1. imaginative
2. creative
3. outgoing
4. like using my hands to create things
5. performer

In My Free Time I Would Enjoy
1. working on the school paper or yearbook
2. acting in a play
3. painting pictures, drawing

School Subjects/Activities That I Enjoy or Do Well In
1. social studies
2. choir/chorus/band
3. creative writing
4. art

Total # circled: ____ **3.**

Activities That Sound Interesting To Me
1. putting things together
2. designing buildings
3. working on cars, mechanical things
4. using advanced math to solve problems
5. gardening
6. using tools

Personal Qualities That Describe Me
1. practical
2. like using my hands
3. logical
4. good at following instructions
5. observant

In My Free Time I Would Enjoy
1. building stage sets for a school play
2. drawing sketches of cars, mechanical things
3. working on cars

School Subjects/Activities That I Enjoy or Do Well In
1. math
2. geometry
3. woodworking
4. science

Total # circled: ____ **4.**

Activities That Sound Interesting To Me
1. interviewing people
2. using computer program to do math
3. typing letters, forms, banners, etc.
4. keeping records, taking notes at meetings
5. working with numbers
6. organizing files and paperwork

Personal Qualities That Describe Me
1. practical
2. independent
3. organized
4. like to use machines
5. like to be around people

In My Free Time I Would Enjoy
1. being in a speech contest or debate
2. using a computer
3. volunteering in a local hospital office

School Subjects/Activities That I Enjoy or Do Well In
1. speech
2. language
3. math
4. marketing

Total # circled: ____ **5.**

Activities That Sound Interesting To Me
1. helping people solve problems
2. working with kids
3. working with elderly people
4. preparing food
5. being involved in politics
6. solving a mystery

Personal Qualities That Describe Me
1. friendly
2. open
3. outgoing
4. good at making decisions
5. good listener

In My Free Time I Would Enjoy
1. tutoring young children
2. helping with a community project
3. coaching kids in a sport

School Subjects/Activities That I Enjoy or Do Well In
1. language arts
2. history
3. speech
4. math

Total # circled: ____ **6.**

*Adapted from Krista Flowers, Mid Rivers Tech Prep Consortium.

Now that you know what some of your interests, abilities, and talents are, take another look at the career paths descriptions listed on page 4. Which ***three*** career paths do you think best match your strengths?

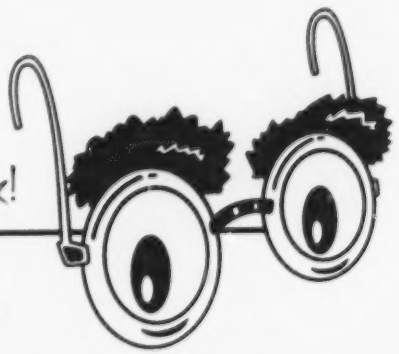
1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

These paths you've selected are just a starting point! As you find out more about career paths and occupations in them, you may decide that your strengths are best suited to a different career path.

That's how career exploration is supposed to work!



Step 2. Begin to Look at Careers!

Now you're ready to look at opportunities in each career path that relate to your strengths.

On the following pages, you'll find information for each career path, including examples of occupations. Here's how to use these pages to begin your exploration of all six career paths:

1. Place a check mark (✓) beside occupations that you want to learn more about. Diplomas or graduation caps next to each occupation show how much education or training is required for ***entry-level work*** in the occupation.

   Try to mark several occupations for each path. Don't worry about having too many check marks - just mark everything that looks interesting!

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Arts & Communications

Are you a creative thinker? Are you imaginative, innovative, and original? Do you like to communicate ideas? This may be the career path for you!

Communications Occupations

- Audio-Visual Specialist
- Broadcast Technician
- Communications Manager
- Editor
- Interpreter/Translator
- Public Relations Specialist
- Radio/TV Announcer
- Reporter
- Writer

Performing Arts Occupations

- Actor
- Choreographer
- Composer
- Dancer
- Music Director
- Musician
- Producer/Director
- Professional Athlete

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Visual Arts Occupations

- Artist
- Custom Tailor
- Designer
- Engraver
- Fashion Designer
- Film Editor
- Floral Designer/Florist

- Graphic/Commercial Artist
- Interior Designer
- Jeweler/Silversmith
- Movie and TV Camera Operator
- Photographer
- Precision Lithographer/Photoengraver

High School Diploma

With a high school diploma, I could be a:

Musician

1 to 2 Years Past High School

With 1 to 2 years of training past high school, I could be a:

Choreographer

Undergraduate Degree (Associate or Bachelor's)

With an undergraduate degree, I could be a:

Music Director

Graduate Degree

With a graduate degree, I could be a:

Composer

Education Level Key:

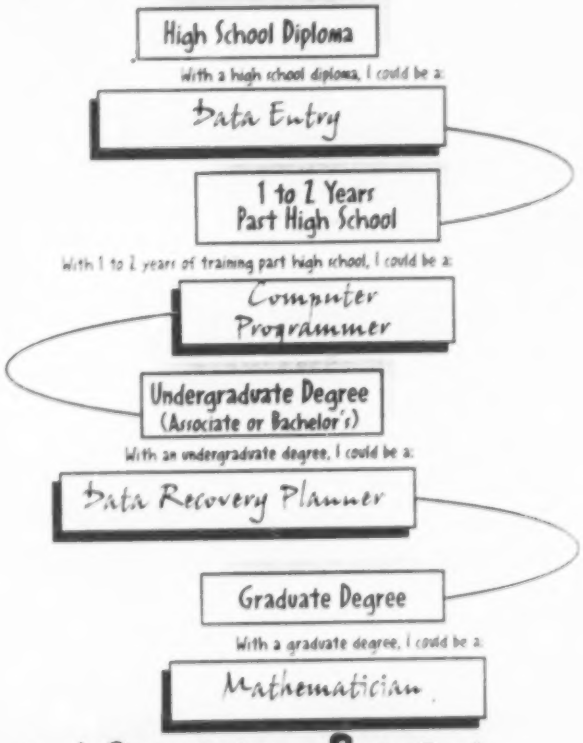
High School Diploma: 1 to 2 Years Past High School: Undergraduate Degree: Graduate Degree:

Business, Management, & Technology

Do you enjoy being a leader, organizing people, planning activities, and talking? Do you like to work with numbers or ideas? Do you enjoy carrying through with an idea and seeing the end product? Do you like things neat and orderly? This may be the career path for you!

Administrative Support Occupations, Including Clerical

- Bank Teller
- Data Entry Keyer
- Dispatcher, Emergency Vehicles
- Hotel/Motel Clerk
- Legal Secretary
- Medical Secretary
- Payroll Clerk
- Postal Mail Carrier
- Title Examiner/Searcher


High School Diploma
With a high school diploma, I could be a:
Data Entry
1 to 2 Years Part High School
With 1 to 2 years of training part high school, I could be a:
Computer Programmer
Undergraduate Degree (Associate or Bachelor's)
With an undergraduate degree, I could be a:
Data Recovery Planner
Graduate Degree
With a graduate degree, I could be a:
Mathematician

Computer, Mathematical, and Operations Research Occupations

- Computer Programmer
- Computer Security Specialist
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Statistician
- Data Recovery Planner
- User Support Analyst
- Information Scientist
- Mathematician

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Executive, Administrative, and Managerial Occupations

- Administrative Services Manager
- College and University Administrator
- Food Services Manager
- Hotel/Motel Manager
- Human Resources Program Administrator
- Loan Officer/Counselor
- Office Manager
- Personnel, Training, and Labor Relations Specialist
- Postmaster
- SchoolPrincipal
- Property and Real Estate Manager
- Sales Manager
- Technical Training Coordinator

Marketing and Sales Occupations

- Advertising Sales Agent
- Insurance Sales Agent
- Real Estate Appraiser
- Real Estate Sales Agent/Broker
- Retail Sales Person
- Securities and Financial Services Sales Agent
- Travel Agent
- Wholesale and Retail Buyer

Education Level Key:

High School Diploma: 1 to 2 Years Past High School: Undergraduate Degree: Graduate Degree:

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Health Services

Do you like to care for people or animals who are sick or help them stay well? Are you interested in diseases and in how the body works? This may be the career path for you!

Health Diagnosis, Assessment, & Treatment Occupations

- Chiropractor
- Dentist
- Occupational Therapist
- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist
- Physician
- Physician's Assistant
- Respiratory Therapist
- Speech Pathologist
- Veterinarian

Health Assistants

- Dental Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Nurse Aide/Orderly
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Pharmacist Assistant
- Physical Therapy Assistant

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Health Technologists & Technicians

- Dental Hygienist
- Electrocardiograph Technician
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Technologist
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- Psychiatric Technician
- Radiation Therapy Technologist
- Veterinary Technician

High School Diploma

With a high school diploma, I could be a:

Nurse Aide/Orderly

1 to 2 Years Past High School

With 1 to 2 years of training part high school, I could be a:

Physical Therapy Assistant

Undergraduate Degree (Associate or Bachelor's)

With an undergraduate degree, I could be a:

Physical Therapist

Graduate Degree

With a graduate degree, I could be a:

Physician

Education Level Key:

High School Diploma: 1 to 2 Years Past High School: Undergraduate Degree: Graduate Degree:

Human Services

Are you friendly, open, outgoing, understanding, and cooperative? Do you like to work with people to solve problems? Is it important to you to do something that makes things better for other people? This may be the career path for you!

Legal Occupations

- Judge
- Lawyer
- Legal Technician (Paralegal)

Religious Occupations

- Clergy*
- Director of Religious Activities

*Educational requirements vary greatly

Protective Service Occupations

- Firefighter
- Fire Inspector
- Parole and Probation Officer
- Police Patrol Officer
- Guard
- Police Detective
- Private Investigator
- Sheriff

Teachers, Librarians, & Counselors

- Career Guidance Technician
- Coach
- College or University Faculty Member
- Librarian
- Library Technician
- Teacher Aide
- Library Assistant
- Secondary School Teacher
- Teacher, Elementary
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

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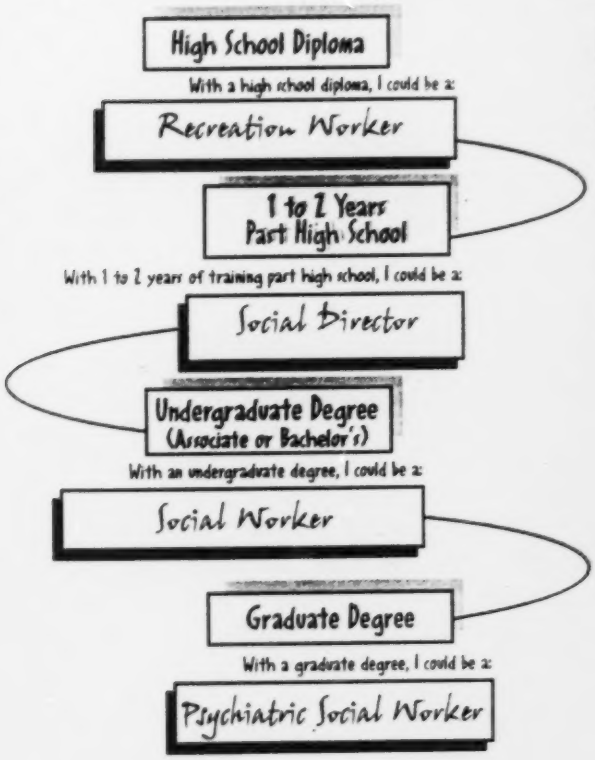
High School Diploma
With a high school diploma, I could be a:
Recreation Worker
1 to 2 Years Part High School
With 1 to 2 years of training part high school, I could be a:
Social Director
Undergraduate Degree (Associate or Bachelor's)
With an undergraduate degree, I could be a:
Social Worker
Graduate Degree
With a graduate degree, I could be a:
Psychiatric Social Worker

Food & Beverage Preparation Service Occupations

- Baker
- Butcher
- Chef
- Cook, Restaurant
- Counter Clerk
- Dietitian/Nutritionist

Social Service Occupations

- Employment Interviewer
- Psychiatric Social Worker
- Recreation Worker
- Social Director
- Social Worker

Personal Service Occupations

- Barber
- Customer Service Clerk
- Flight Attendant
- Funeral Attendant
- Funeral Director/Mortician
- Hairdresser/Cosmetologist

Social Scientists & Urban Planners

- Archeologist
- Economist
- Political Scientist
- Psychologist
- Sociologist
- Urban and Regional Planner

Education Level Key:

High School Diploma: 1 to 2 Years Past High School: Undergraduate Degree: Graduate Degree:

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Industrial & Engineering Technology

Are you mechanically inclined and practical? Do you like reading diagrams and blueprints, and drawing building structures? Are you curious about how things work? This may be the career path for you!

Architects, Surveyors, & Cartographers

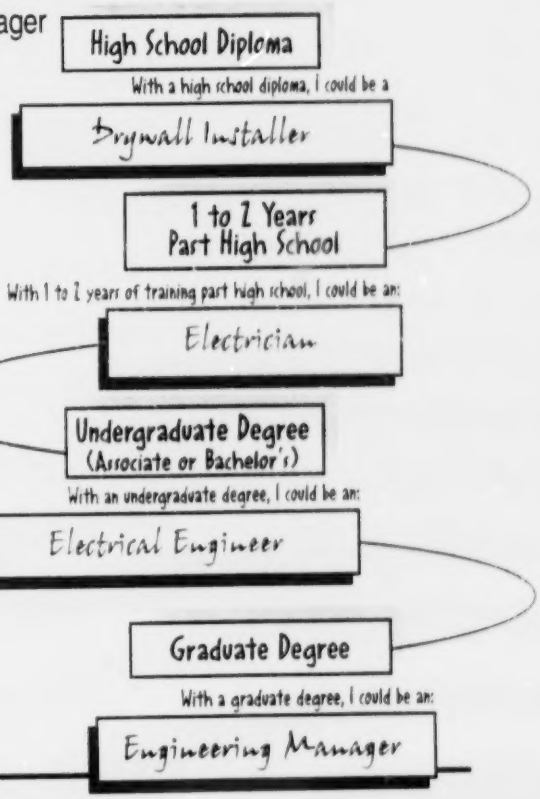
- Architect
- Cartographer
- Cartographic Technician
- Geographer
- Landscape Architect
- Surveyor

Engineering & Engineering Technology

- Aerospace/Aeronautical Engineer
- Chemical Engineer
- Computer-Aided Design Technician
- Drafter
- Electrical/Electronics Engineer
- Engineering, Mathematics, & Natural Sciences Manager
- Nuclear Technologist
- Pollution Control Technician

Mechanics, Installers, & Repairers

- Automobile Mechanic
- Electronic Home Entertainment Equipment Repairer
- Robotics Technician
- Telephone Technician
- Upholsterer


High School Diploma
With a high school diploma, I could be a
Drywall Installer
1 to 2 Years Part High School
With 1 to 2 years of training part high school, I could be an:
Electrician
Undergraduate Degree (Associate or Bachelor's)
With an undergraduate degree, I could be an:
Electrical Engineer
Graduate Degree
With a graduate degree, I could be an:
Engineering Manager

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Transportation & Material Moving Occupations

- Air Traffic Controller
- Aircraft Pilot/Flight Engineer
- Ambulance Driver/Attendant
- Excavating and Loading Machine Operator
- Material Moving Equipment Operator

Printing Occupations

- Bookbinder
- Electronic Pagination System Worker
- Printing Press Operator

Construction Trades & Extractive Occupations

- Brickmason
- Construction Manager
- Drywall Installer
- Electrician
- Painter/Paperhanger
- Plumber/Pipefitter
- Roofer

Plant & Systems Operators

- Power Reactor Plant Operator
- Stationary Engineer
- Water and Sewage Treatment Plant Operator

Machinists & Industrial Production Occupations

- Chemical Plant Operator
- Electromechanical Equipment Assembler
- Locksmith
- Machinist
- Textile Machine Operator
- Tool and Die Maker
- Welder/Cutter

Education Level Key:

High School Diploma: 1 to 2 Years Past High School: Undergraduate Degree: Graduate Degree:

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Natural Resources/Agriculture

Are you a nature lover? Are you practical, curious about the physical world, and interested in plants and animals? Do you like to be physically active? This may be the career path for you!

Agriculture, Forestry, & Fishing Occupations

- Agronomist
- Animal Scientist
- Biological/Agricultural Technologist
- Conservation Agent (Fish and Game Warden)
- Farmer
- Fish Hatchery Worker
- Horticulturist
- Landscape Gardener
- Nursery Manager
- Pest Control Worker
- Purchasing Agent, Farm Products

Life Scientists

- Agriculturalist and Food Scientist
- Biochemist
- Biochemistry Technologist
- Botanist
- Environmental Analyst
- Forester/Conservation Scientist
- Geneticist
- Marine Biologist
- Soil Conservationist
- Zoologist

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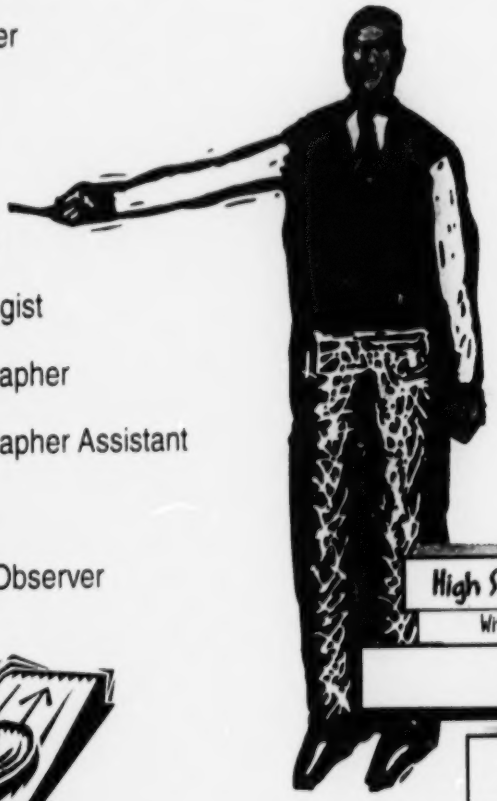
Physical Scientists

- Astronomer
- Chemist
- Diver
- Geologist
- Meteorologist
- Oceanographer
- Oceanographer Assistant
- Physicist
- Weather Observer



High School Diploma

With a high school diploma, I could be a

Diver

1 to 2 Years Part High School

With 1 to 2 years of training part high school, I could be an:

Oceanographic Assistant

Undergraduate Degree (Associate or Bachelor's)

With an undergraduate degree, I could be an:

Oceanographer

Graduate Degree

With a graduate degree, I could be a:

Marine Biologist

Education Level Key:

High School Diploma: 1 to 2 Years Past High School: Undergraduate Degree: Graduate Degree:

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Step 2. More of Step 2

2. Look at the occupations you marked and pick out the ones that you want to find out more about. ***Be adventuresome!*** Try to select at least one occupation from each path. Write your choices below. You may have more occupations in some paths than in others. That's fine as long as you have something in each path and a total of 12 occupations.

Arts & Communications:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Business, Management, & Technology:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Health Services:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Human Services:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Industrial & Engineering Technology:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Natural Resources/Agriculture:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Don't forget to talk to your family members about their career experiences!

3. Time to investigate! Using career information resources available to you, look up information on the following pages for the 12 occupations you selected. Fill in as much information for each occupation as you can.

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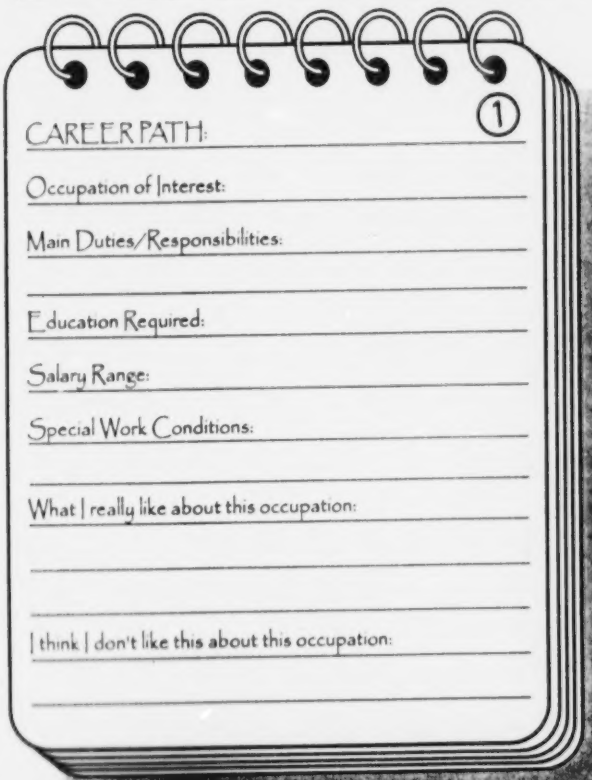


CAREER PATH: ①

Occupation of Interest:

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

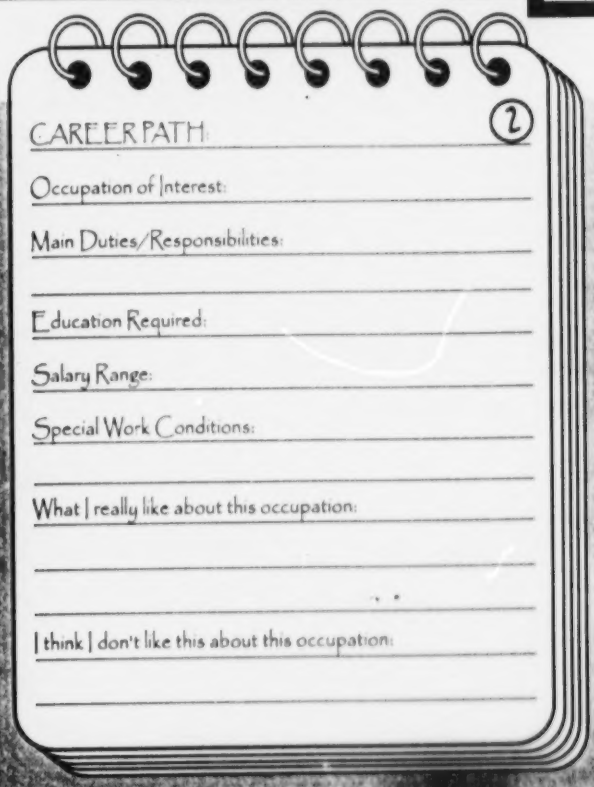
Education Required:

Salary Range:

Special Work Conditions:

What I really like about this occupation:

I think I don't like this about this occupation:



CAREER PATH: ②

Occupation of Interest:

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

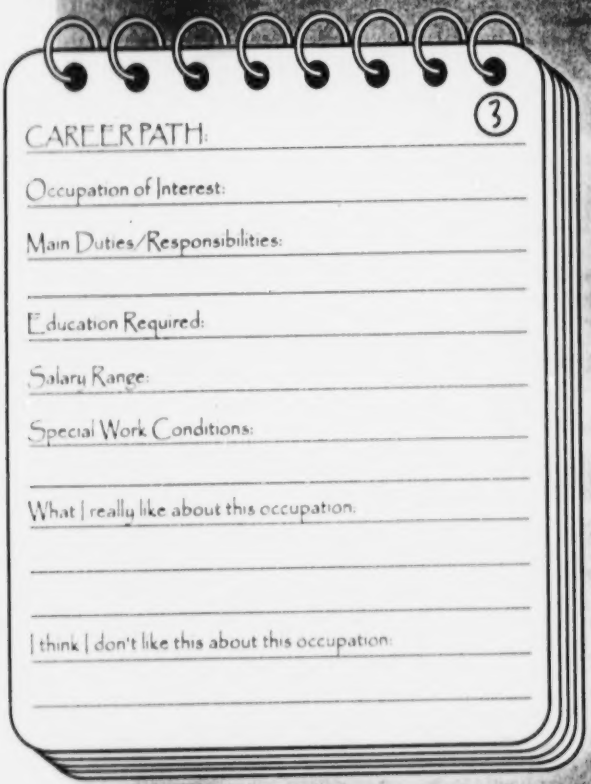
Education Required:

Salary Range:

Special Work Conditions:

What I really like about this occupation:

I think I don't like this about this occupation:



CAREER PATH: ③

Occupation of Interest:

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

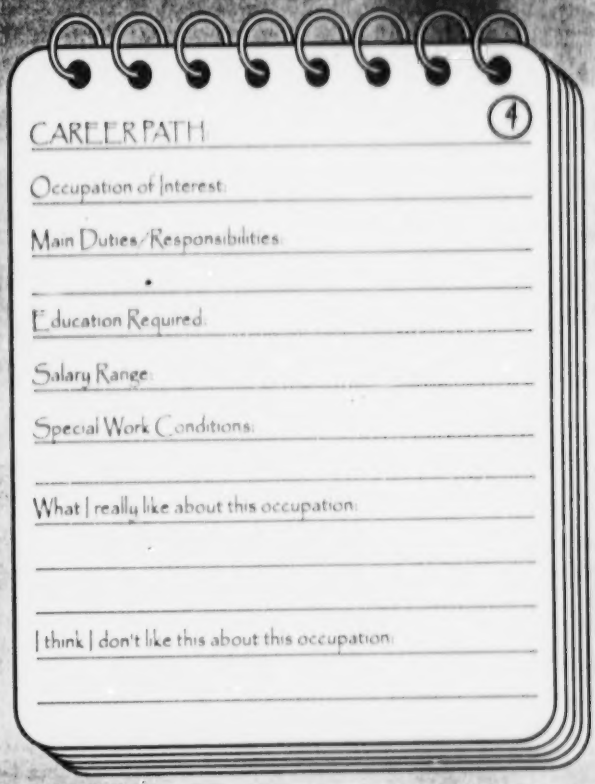
Education Required:

Salary Range:

Special Work Conditions:

What I really like about this occupation:

I think I don't like this about this occupation:



CAREER PATH: ④

Occupation of Interest:

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Education Required:

Salary Range:

Special Work Conditions:

What I really like about this occupation:

I think I don't like this about this occupation:

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Exploring Career Paths

CAREER PATH: ⑤

Occupation of Interest:

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Education Required:

Salary Range:

Special Work Conditions:

What I really like about this occupation:

I think I don't like this about this occupation:

CAREER PATH: ⑥

Occupation of Interest:

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Education Required:

Salary Range:

Special Work Conditions:

What I really like about this occupation:

I think I don't like this about this occupation:

CAREER PATH: ⑦

Occupation of Interest:

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Education Required:

Salary Range:

Special Work Conditions:

What I really like about this occupation:

I think I don't like this about this occupation:

CAREER PATH: ⑧

Occupation of Interest:

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Education Required:

Salary Range:

Special Work Conditions:

What I really like about this occupation:

I think I don't like this about this occupation:

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CAREER PATH: 9

Occupation of Interest:

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Education Required:

Salary Range:

Special Work Conditions:

What I really like about this occupation:

I think I don't like this about this occupation:

CAREER PATH: 10

Occupation of Interest:

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Education Required:

Salary Range:

Special Work Conditions:

What I really like about this occupation:

I think I don't like this about this occupation:

CAREER PATH: 11

Occupation of Interest:

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Education Required:

Salary Range:

Special Work Conditions:

What I really like about this occupation:

I think I don't like this about this occupation:

CAREER PATH: 12

Occupation of Interest:

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Education Required:

Salary Range:

Special Work Conditions:

What I really like about this occupation:

I think I don't like this about this occupation:

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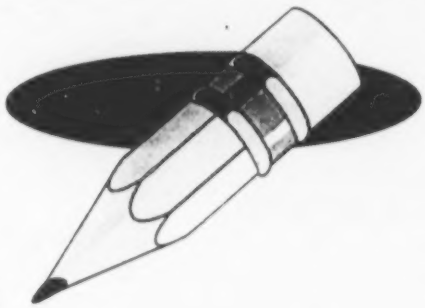
Step 2. Still More



So, what did you find???

The most interesting thing I learned from my research was:

The thing about my research that surprised me the most was:

The occupations I liked the best were:

Based on my research, these are the career paths that I am most interested in exploring:

1.
2.
3.

Step 3. Explore, Both In School And Out!

Now that you know more about the six career paths, you need to collect some ***personal experiences*** that are related to each path. An experience can be lots of things:

- doing a special project or presentation for class related to a career path
- thinking about what you enjoy outside of school like a family camping trip or planning a holiday party
- interviewing someone who works in an area you find interesting
- collecting information through job shadowing, field trips, and guest speakers

The possibilities are endless, so let your imagination go!

Plan to do different activities in each of the paths. Don't limit yourself to one. The more you explore, the more career knowledge you gain, and the better prepared you will be to make future career paths-related decisions!

Career Paths Journal

Arts & Communications Experiences

Write about your experiences in this path:

Now, write why you liked or disliked the experiences.

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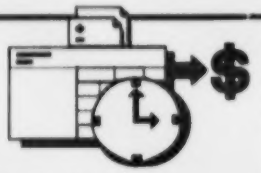
Business, Management, & Technology Experiences



Write about your experiences in this path:

Now, write why you liked or disliked the experiences.

Health Services Experiences

Write about your experiences in this path:

Now, write why you liked or disliked the experiences.

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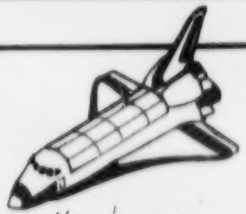
Human Services Experiences

Write about your experiences in this path:

Now, write why you liked or disliked the experiences.

Industrial & Engineering Technology Experiences

Write about your experiences in this path:



Now, write why you liked or disliked the experiences.

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Natural Resources/Agriculture Experiences

Write about your experiences in this path:

Now, write why you liked or disliked the experiences.

think we're getting close to something,
let's keep moving; go on to the
next page.

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let's see what you've been doing!

The experience I enjoyed the most was:

I enjoyed it because:

The experience I enjoyed the least was:

I did not enjoy it as much because:

Based on my personal career paths experiences, the career paths that I am most interested in learning more about ***now*** are:

1.

2.

3.

Step 4. Put It All Together!

Guess what?

Thanks to the exploring you've been doing, you're ready to select a career path you are interested in right now. Remember, you're picking a path to learn more about, not deciding on a career for the rest of your life!

Which career path do I think best matches my interests, abilities, and talents? (Starred box, page 7)

Based on my research, what career path do I most want to explore further? (Starred box, page 14)

Based on my career paths experiences, what career path do I like the most? (Starred box, page 19)

Did you choose the same career path for all three answers? If you did, that career path may be for you! Think about courses, activities, and workplace learning experiences that can help you continue your exploration of this path.

If you listed different career paths for each answer, that's cool too! You can use courses, activities, and workplace learning experiences to further explore ***all*** of the career paths you listed above. Sooner or later, one will stand out.

Whether you have one career path or several that you want to explore further, make a plan to continue on your career paths journey.

Now, the career path that I am most interested in knowing more about is:

With more experiences, I may decide this career path is not for me. If I do, the career path that I would explore next is:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Step 5. GET STARTED - Explore Some More!

You can start by using the planner below to explore your career path interest. Select courses, extra curricular activities, workplace experiences, and research activities that you can do to learn more about this career path.

Plan of Action

THIS CAREER PATH IS: _____

Some courses related to the career path:

9th Grade

10th Grade

11th Grade

12th Grade

Post-Secondary

Extra-curricular activities I will participate in:

Workplace experiences (including volunteering) I'd like to try:

Research activities or projects I can do in my classes:

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Exploring Career Paths

OK, you've got a plan. Just how far can career paths planning take you? ***As far as you want to go!*** Fill in the chart below just to see where your career path might lead you. Dream a little bit! See where you end up!

First, write in the name of the career path you are exploring.

Now, using the information in this booklet or other sources, find occupations that fit each blank.

You really ***can*** go as far as you want in a career path.

You can start a career at any of these points. You can also start at one point, then go for other education or training to get to the next point.

High School Diploma

With a high school diploma, I could be a:

1 to 2 years past high school

With 1 to 2 years of training past high school, I could be a:

Undergraduate Degree (Associate or Bachelor's)

With an Undergraduate Degree, I could be a:

Graduate Degree

With a Graduate Degree, I could be a:

No matter how much education or training you want, chances are there's an occupation that's right for you!

field of dreams

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Want More?

OK, back to the present – or at least to the near future! What happens after you finish this booklet? Well, look at your options:

1. Want to know more about your career path? Your courses, extra-curriculuar activities, workplace experiences, and research activities can help you.
2. Want to explore another career path? Look up the other career path you listed on page 30. Use the plan of action on page 31 to explore this career path.
3. Want to do more career paths research before planning further? You can redo this booklet as many times as you want.

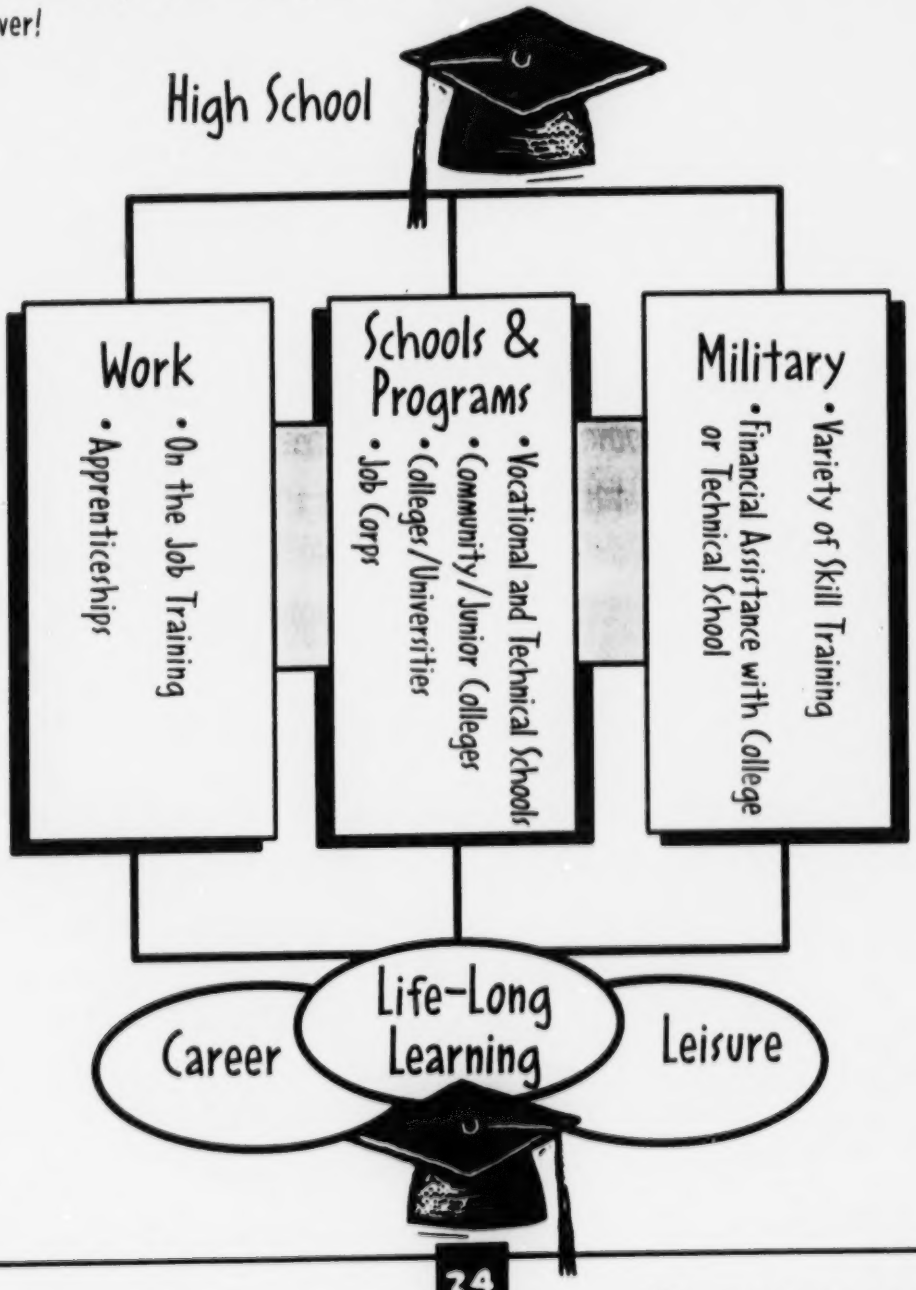
   Remember, very few people stay in exactly the same career that they start out with!

Whichever option you choose, you're well on the way to finding the career path that's right for you!

You know what? You're actually just beginning! Career exploration will happen the rest of your life. It's exciting, and the time to begin is now!

The Big Picture: What to Do with Your Life . . .

Making decisions that affect the rest of your life is never easy. But the good news is. . . there are always options. And many of the options eventually lead to the same conclusion. So, don't get discouraged when looking at your career options, and don't be afraid to change your mind – ever!



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Booklet adapted from materials originally compiled by Roseann Cochran.
Project was supported in whole or in part by funds from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Division of Vocational and Adult Education. However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or the Division of Vocational and Adult Education, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

First printing - November 1994
Second printing - March 1995
Third printing - September 1995
Revised printing - December 1996
Reprinted - February 1997
Reprinted - May 1997

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